

The Daily Era can be had every morning at the Periodical Stand of Mr. J. T. BATES, Exchange, Philadelphia; also, the Weekly Era.

Mr. JAMES ELLIOTT is authorized to receive and receipt for subscriptions and advertisements for the Daily and the Weekly National Era, in Cincinnati and vicinity.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1854.

THE FUTURE.

A Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce speaks freely of the general scheme of policy of the Slavery propagandists, as follows:

"It is objected to the Nebraska bill, that it will establish a principle of extensive application, and will involve the application of the same provisions to Oregon and Washington. Certainly it will. That is its main object. The principle was established in 1850, now it will be confirmed in 1854. Next year it will be declared that the Ordinance of 1787 is inoperative, and that the Slavery resolution in the Oregon bill, which Mr. Polk hesitatingly signed, is superseded.

"Therefore, if Slavery be a universal necessity, it will be allowed universally to prevail. But, probably, it will be found that its limits will be fixed by climate and commerce—by laws above the action of Congress.

"The political effect of the passage of this bill will be important, and, on the whole, highly favorable. It will put an end to the old parties, and 'crush out' condition of the Democracy. It will organize parties into two divisions, and both of them based on the Slavery question.

"One party will be the Non-Intervention party, and the other the Abolition party. It is not quite certain which will finally prevail. But the struggle is, at length, seriously begun. All that has ever happened on this question, all the combats from 1820 down, were mere child's play in comparison with what we shall see next Fall, and next year, and for three years to come. There will be no compromises. The old ones will be condemned and set aside. Non-intervention on one side, and Abolition on the other, are the only two principles upon which the contract is to be made."

Certainly, when Badger, Bell, and Clayton, voted a few days ago with Douglas and Cass, that the Missouri Compromise was inconsistent with the principles of the legislation of 1850, and that therefore it was null and inoperative, they virtually voted that the provisions in the Constitutions of Oregon, Washington, and Minnesota, prohibiting Slavery, are also inconsistent with that legislation, and therefore null and inoperative. We showed, long since, that this result was precisely what the slaveholders intended to accomplish.

In our zeal to visit retribution upon the heads of the Southern men, who stand forth as apparent leaders in this movement, we must not overlook the fact that after all they are but agents in the hands of the Slave Interest. It was not they who originated the opposition to the organization of Nebraska, and who are primarily responsible for this project of repealing the Missouri Compromise. When the Nebraska Bill went through the House at the last session, we said that it would fail in the Senate, because the ruling power in that body would not tolerate the idea of organizing new free territory. It did fail, the entire slaveholding delegation, with two exceptions, voting against it. That fact told the whole story; it demonstrated the fixed purpose of the Slave Interest to keep back the growth of Free Territory, and perpetuate its own ascendancy.

In the interval, the influence of the Administration, under the control of this same interest, was constantly used to prevent the settlement of the Territory, and Mr. ARCHISON, addressing the People of Missouri at different points, openly and emphatically declared that he never would vote for a bill organizing the Territory of Nebraska, unless slaveholders were allowed to carry their slaves into it. On the 10th of January, the *Western (Missouri) Argus*, a pro-slavery paper, announced that Mr. Douglas had introduced a bill into the Senate, for the division of Nebraska, and its organization into two Territories, one to be called Kansas, the other Nebraska; the former of which it said would be sure to be a slaveholding Territory. This announcement was made just two weeks before Mr. Douglas brought forward his substitute, providing for the erection of two Territories in Nebraska, while as yet nobody not in the councils of the Slavery Propagandists had any intimation that such a project was in contemplation. This fact shows that the substitute Bill was a preconcerted measure, known to the friends of Mr. Atchison in Missouri, long before it was brought forward in Washington.

Again: In our political controversies we are anxious to avoid all offensive personalities; but we presume it is no longer offensive to say of a public man that he is a slaveholder, or that he is specially interested in the system of Slavery. On the contrary, the ownership of human beings seems to be regarded as a patent of nobility. To belong to the slaveholding class is to belong to the ruling class. And this class, though lying chiefly in the South, is not confined to it. There are men at the North directly or indirectly interested to a large amount in what is called slave property. Mr. Douglas, we are sure, will not feel aggrieved, when we say that by the force of circumstances he has himself become so interested. By connection and by pecuniary interest, although a Northern man and a Senator from a Northwestern State, he belongs to the ruling class—the slaveholding oligarchy. When he proposes, therefore, the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, it is not as a Northern politician, but as a member of that oligarchy. There is another Senator from the West, Mr. Bright, of Indiana, belonging to the same class, not through an indirect connection, but in virtue of actual slaveholding. It has been repeatedly stated, by some of the newspapers of Indiana, and never denied, to our knowledge, that he owns one or two plantations of slaves in Kentucky.

How many more Northern members of Congress are similarly situated, we are not informed; but there can be no doubt that several of these, by business or marriage connections, have become members to all intents and purposes of the slaveholding class.

In view of all these considerations, it is plain that the movement of Mr. Douglas for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise is not a Northern measure, originated by Northern men, but primarily a slaveholding scheme, intended to extend and perpetuate the power of the slaveholding oligarchy.

The correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* presents but an imperfect view of the policy of the slaveholders. Of course, they see that the abrogation of the Anti-Slavery prohibition in the Governments of Oregon, Washington, and Minnesota, is involved in the passage of Douglas's Nebraska Bill. They see that it will practically convert a certain portion of Nebraska into a field for slave labor. But they look beyond all this, and see in the passage of the Bill another demonstration of their power, a signal triumph over the spirit of Freedom, a profound humiliation to the North, an enhancement of their prestige of success, so all-prevailing with the mercenary politicians abounding in that section. We care not, they say, for any immediate pecuniary gain, but we subject the North to a test, submission to which will prove that its people can be moulded at our will; and we wipe out the stigma fastened upon Slavery by the early action of the Government, as an institution exceptional and mischievous.

But, not only for the practical advantages secured at once to Slave Labor, not only for the gratification of the pride and the augmentation of the influence of the Slave Power, not only on account of the staggering blow that will be inflicted upon the spirit of resistance to slaveholding aggression, is this measure urged; still another consideration unites and confirms the South in its support—if passed, it establishes, as it is said, the Principle of Non-Intervention by the Federal Government, with a view to suppress or exclude Slavery from any portion of United States Territory. Slavery will be considered Nationalized, and may intrude itself anywhere within the jurisdiction of the General Government. The Non-Intervention of the Slaveholders means, no legislation against Slavery in the Territories, either by Congress or the Territorial Legislatures. Territorial acquisitions on the North are not anticipated, will not be tolerated. The Slaveholders want no Territory where the laws of Nature and the habits of the People are unfavorable to Slavery. Their aim is acquisitions, southwardly, of countries where Slavery already exists, or may be readily introduced. Pass the bill, establish the Principle of Non-Intervention, so called, as a universal rule of policy, and the whole power of the Government will be turned towards the acquisition of Cuba, and the gradual absorption of all Mexico, fit for slaveculture. There can be no mistake as to this. The appointment of Mr. Soule to Spain, that of Sullivan to Portugal, the filibustering expeditions against Cuba from this country, the significant hints in "the organ," for the last six months, of Executive interference to save that island from the process of "Africanization" or emancipation, the piratical descent of Captain Walker upon Lower California, for the purpose of setting up there a slaveholding Republic, the Gadsden treaty proposing the purchase of a portion of Mexico large enough to form two slave States, now under consideration in the Senate, and other facts, confirm this view of the future policy of the Government.

Nor will this be all. Despotisms are identical in principle, and are maintained by the same means. Free Speech and a Free Press on the continent of Europe are suppressed, because incompatible with the existence of Absolutism. Free Speech and a Free Press in the Southern States of this Union are suppressed, because incompatible with Plantation Slavery. Margaret Douglas, a benevolent woman, is imprisoned at Norfolk, for teaching slaves to read. Twenty years ago, the slaveholders, presuming that a little too much on their power, set a price on the heads of Northern freemen, for discussing the subject of Slavery, and demanded from Northern Legislatures the passage of laws against such discussion; and a little later, they undertook to establish an irresponsible censorship over the post office. They revealed in all this their eternal hostility to Liberty, and the irreconcilable antagonism of Slavery to every safeguard of popular rights. The demands they then made will be renewed whenever they can hope to enforce them. Not one claim have they abandoned. Plantation Slavery to-day hates Liberty of Speech and the Press as much as Russian Despotism does. The Slave Power would strangle the Press at the North, as it has done at the South, were it within its grasp.

The end is not yet. Pass the Bill—let the Slave Interest triumph—let the North be abused, its life-blood poisoned, its strong limbs palsied by the Treason hatched in its bosom—let Slavery be nationalized, and new regions added to its ample domain—and how long ere the haughty demands of 1836 will be revived? One step towards this result was taken at Baltimore, when the so-called Democratic Party was pledged, by its National Convention, to resist and suppress all discussion of the Slavery question, in Congress and out of it. This was a moral odium against Liberty of Speech and the Press, to be enforced by the power of a majority, under the heavy pains and penalties of Party Proscriptions. How easy the transition to legislative enactment—to a law of libel or sedition—inflicting fine and imprisonment, upon all engaged in denouncing Slavery and its supporters!

This day, had the Slaveholding Class the courage, it would openly demand the suppression of the *National Era*. Let the Bill pass—let the North continue passive, humbled, distracted, enslaved—let Slavery go on conquering and to conquer, and the time will come when no free Press will be allowed here, or anywhere else.

The Future is before us—the Present alone is ours. If we use this right, if the North rally now in its might and manhood, and baffle this stupendous scheme of slaveholding subjugation, the Future, too, may be ours and Freedom's. If we fail, if the North still sleep on, its awakening will probably be only amidst the convulsions of Revolution.

The *Alton Telegraph* says, that petitions are in circulation in that city, remonstrating against the Nebraska bill of Judge Douglas. The remonstrances are signed by men of all parties.

An Irishman, who was near-sighted, and about to fight a duel, insisted that he should send six paces nearer his antagonist, than the latter did to him, and that they were both to fire at the same time.

IMPORTANT FOREIGN NEWS.

A war, fierce, sanguinary, and protracted between the great Powers of Europe, now seems to be an almost certain event.

THE NEW SENATOR FROM MAINE.

The *Portland (Me.) Inquirer*, the organ of the Free Soil or Independent Democratic party in Maine, rejoices over the election to the United States Senate of William Pitt Fessenden. We presume the statement it makes may be relied upon; if so, it has reason for its rejoicing. It says:

"He is not elected as a party man, but as an honest man, irrespective of party, and above party, for the purposes of just and truly Democratic Government. No one party had the power to elect him, and to no one party does he owe special allegiance or obligation. Three parties combined have secured this result. True, one vote in the House and three in the Senate were given for Dr. Hubbard, but with the intention of concentrating every vote on Fessenden at the second ballot. Mr. A. P. Morrill and his friends were as firm and true for him as any other men.

"The Free Democratic party cast a solid vote for him in both branches. And they did not do it blindly, nor inconsiderately, but on solid grounds, such as would have received the ready approbation of every reasonable friend of Freedom in the State. Mr. Fessenden goes to Congress to maintain the cause of Freedom. He fully adopts its principles and objects, as advocated by the Free Democracy; and it is matter of devout congratulation that Maine has been able at this crisis to send such a man there.

"It is remarkable that the party of Freedom in this State has decided the election of both of our Senators in Congress. It is a proud fact, illustrating its value and its power. The party now sends Mr. Fessenden to join Mr. Hamlin, and support him in his firm resistance to the present demands of the slave power. Had it not been for this party, both seats would now be filled by the supple tools of that power. Such facts will win to us the hearts of the People. Nine round cheers for the election of William Pitt Fessenden!"

When co-operation between Free-Souls and members of other parties accomplishes such results, it is worthy of all praise.

PAULING DEMOCRAT.

This excellent paper has been recently established at Paulding, Paulding county, Ohio, by Mr. A. S. Latty. The editor is a warm-hearted, well-informed Irishman, one of the most prominent among the Old Line Democrats in his section of the State, who with thousands more cannot abide the recent endorsement of the Baltimore platform in Ohio. His paper is devoted to the advocacy of Democracy as set forth in the Ohio platform, as it was before the late surrender to the Slave Power—which is the same Democracy, indeed, as is taught in the Columbus and Pittsburgh Independent Democratic platforms. Mr. Latty is an able writer, and his paper cannot fail to do most effective service to the cause of Freedom and Progress. We hope our friends in Ohio, and particularly in northwestern Ohio, will see that it receives a liberal support.

THE PROFIT OF SLAVES.

The *Louisville Journal* records with pleasure the fact that slaves are better fed and better provided for, in all respects, in this country, than at former times; and says that not only improving conceptions of duty, but the continued prosperity of planters, is enabling them to do this.

The *Montgomery (Ala.) Journal* has the following:

"In a recent sale, last Monday, by the auctioneer, General Carroll, we noticed the following rates, for instance: for eighteen negroes of the estate of Wm. McLenore, deceased, which were sold on eleven months' credit, for, in the aggregate, \$14,195. There were none of these mechanics or house servants, but all common field hands, and mostly children. There were three men, age ranging from 31 to 37; two boys, from 12 to 18 years; three women, from 16 to 37 years; ten children, from two months to seven years; one, sixteen years, brought \$430; another, of seven, brought \$260; a boy, of seventeen, brought \$1,374; and another, of twelve years, brought \$710. A woman, of 37 years, with six children, from two to seven years, were sold in family for \$5,000.

"These are the highest prices which we have ever noticed paid for negroes of this description; and which, while it shows an abiding confidence in the continued prosperity of the planting interest, develops also a fear that prices are ranging far above their legitimate point, and not justified by the ruling rates for the value of cotton and plantation products."

Have the prospective permanence and extension of the "institution" nothing to do with this increase?

The *Detroit Democrat* thinks the removal from this country of over four millions of poor colored persons would be more difficult than that of two hundred and fifty thousand white slave-owners, who have the means of paying their own expenses, and that all the troubles growing out of the question of Slavery might thus be terminated. We give our assent to this alternative plan, simply stipulating that neither the whites nor the blacks shall be carried away except of their own free will and accord.

"From various notices of the subject in the English journals, we judge that the cotton manufacture in Great Britain is esteemed by the best judges to be now in that condition which immediately precedes a decline. In fact, we are told by British manufacturers themselves, in plain language, that the cotton manufacture of that country has already 'seen its best days'; and that the manufacturers have a severe struggle before them. These individuals are evidently alarmed at the progress of manufacturing industry in the United States and France, particularly the former."

Alexander's Gazette.

Yes: the folly of sending a bale of cotton to Europe and selling it at ten cents a pound, and then buying it back at one to ten dollars a pound, must become manifest to the cotton planters, as it certainly is to everybody else; and especially when it is remembered that the manufacturer in our midst becomes a good customer for other things besides the raw material consumed in his peculiar business.

A general United States Anti-Slavery Convention is to be held in Cincinnati, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 11th, 12th, and 13th of April next.

The Boston papers chronicle the arrival of a fleet of oyster vessels from Virginia. Previous to this, oysters had been selling in Boston for one dollar a gallon. This arrival will reduce the price about fifty per cent.

THE VOICE OF NEW YORK CITY.

On Saturday evening, the Tabernacle at New York was full to overflowing of freemen assembled to give utterance to their sentiments in opposition to the Territorial bill now before Congress.

Mr. McClay nominated Joseph P. Simpson as President; and thirty-two Vice Presidents and five Secretaries were chosen.

The President briefly addressed the meeting. "Thirty-four years ago," said he, "I attended a meeting held in the Assembly Rooms of the City Hotel, where were met the best men in the city; and among them all there was but one voice, and that was for Freedom!" [Cheers.]

An excellent letter from N. Bowditch Blunt was read; and Joseph Blunt, after delivering a spirited address, presented the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we, the mechanics and working men of New York, heartily concur in the stern protest recently uttered in this place by the great meeting called by the leading merchants and bankers of this city, against the threatened repeal of the Missouri Compromise; that we cordially agree with the sentiment uttered by the presiding officer on that occasion, that this bargain is a bargain, and that we cannot understand, and will not tolerate, the doctrine of repudiation; and with the declaration of Mr. Gerard, that "the common and honorable sentiment of all mankind will condemn it;" and then we deem it proper to express our surprise and regret, that the respectful resolutions adopted by that meeting, when presided by Senator Fish to the Senate, were refused a reading.

Resolved, That the pretence that the repeal of the Missouri Compromise is a legitimate consequence of the acts of 1850, has been well shown to be without foundation in fact, by several Senators, and especially by Senator Houston, whose manly adherence to truth and honor we warmly appreciate; that the doctrine broached in some quarters, that that Compromise was unconstitutional, and therefore ought to be repealed, is alike novel and startling, involving a denial of our constitutional rights, conflicting with the views of our greatest statesmen and the repeated action of our Government; that until the Territories are organized into States, and admitted to the Union, the people thereof have no right to make rules and regulations for the governance of the same, but that such right belongs to Congress, absolutely and exclusively to the people of the United States, in Congress assembled.

Resolved, That a decent respect for the part of our Representatives for the rights, opinions, and feelings of the people, demands that no great change in our settled national policy—no change permanently affecting the mutual interests and relations of the various sections of the Union—be suddenly adopted by Congress, until a fair opportunity has been afforded for an expression of the views of their constituents, from whom alone all just power is derived; that any attempt to hurry this bill through the Senate, or to force its passage through the House, in order to forestall the judgment of the people, would be an act treacherous and treasonable, and that we appeal to both Senators and Representatives, by their oath of office and by the confidence which has been generally reposed in them, not to be persuaded by any inducements into so great a wrong; that, speaking in the name of the people, we respectfully but frankly remind them that they are our servants, and not our masters.

Resolved, That the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, in order to introduce Slavery into our free Territory of Nebraska and Kansas, would be in every way a consistent, a breach of pledged faith, a violation not only of our rights, but the rights of man—in defiance alike of republican principles and Christian duty.

Resolved, That the intimation by Senator Badger, that all the Southern Whig Senators will vote for the bill, has aroused equally our sorrow and our indignation; that we of the North repeat the warning already given them by the merchants of our city, that with the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, harmony and confidence are at an end forever, and every existing compromise that those embodied in the Federal Constitution, between the slave masters of the South and the free laborers of the North and West, will be vitiated by their own want of faith.

Resolved, That in regard to the Senators and Representatives in Congress from the free States, if such there be, who are disposed to abet this scheme, and surrender the territories to be set up by a consistent breach of pledged faith, a violation not only of our rights, but the rights of man—in defiance alike of republican principles and Christian duty, we warn the people, who we warn the Government, and the country that they do not truly represent the people, whose most cherished rights, principles, and interests, they are betraying, for the promotion of their personal ambition, or at the dictation of party leaders; and we warn all our public servants who may be tempted to falter in their allegiance to the rights of free labor, that a day of reckoning is at hand.

Resolved, That the agitation and alarm already excited throughout the free States, at the proposed repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the popular indignation, not only of our native, but also of our adopted citizens, at this scheme for depriving them of homesteads in Kansas and Nebraska, unless they will consent to travel on compact and remove the landmarks of Freedom. That we call upon the free laborers of the North to forget all difference of party, and to stand unitedly and shoulder to shoulder, in our common rights; and we call upon all the ministers of religion, by the high duties of their holy office, to invoke the Ruler of Nations to turn the hearts of those who are contemplating this stupendous wrong.

Resolved, That we call upon our Senators and Representatives in Congress to resist unflinchingly, in such manner as they shall deem meet, all attempts, from whatever quarter, to repeal, abrogate, or render inoperative, directly or indirectly, the eighth section of the Missouri act; and that we call upon the President of the United States, in case of the passage of such a bill by Congress, to secure that compact from violation by interposing his constitutional veto.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Senators and Representatives of the State of New York in Congress, for presentation to those bodies, to the Governor or each State of the Union, and to the President of the United States.

Hon. John P. Hale and Rev. Henry Ward Beecher delivered soul-stirring addresses, that were most heartily responded to, and the meeting adjourned amid the most enthusiastic applause.

SENATOR HOUTON.—We, who live two hundred miles from Washington, cannot fairly estimate the moral courage which was necessary in a Senator for the South, to take the bold and manly stand taken by Houston, of Texas, on the Nebraska question. All the methods of influence and intimidation, which organization, numbers, and patronage, can supply, are used without stint at the seat of Government, to silence those who disapprove of the bill, and engage the wavering to give it support. These who have visited Washington speak of a leaden tyrant which is felt everywhere, weighing upon men's minds, and coercing them into a cold, helpless acquiescence in the measure.

SENATOR CASE, we hear, deplores the introduction of the bill, and regards it as an ill-advised proceeding. He has not, however, the firmness to refuse it his support.

In the midst of all these sinister influences, to which others have yielded, the generous and fearless course of Houston on the Nebraska bill is praiseworthy, far beyond which those who are not acquainted with the circumstances are able to estimate.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

LITERARY NOTICES.

DOVECOOT, OR, THE HEART OF THE HOMESTEAD. By the author of *Cap Sheaf*. Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. Sold by Taylor & Maury, Washington. 1 vol. Pp. 300.

A pleasant picture of home-life in the country—of life among woods and hills and streams and fields, where the sweet influences of Nature are free to play around the heart like summer winds.

The story of Milly, the "poor wail of the world," which is like a silver thread running through the book, is simple and touching. The author has drawn from a full heart, rich in sweet home affections and dear old memories—a heart that has communed with Nature in all her varied forms, sought out her green shady nooks, and lingered in her quiet haunts, till it has become familiar with every element of her lovely face. It is a book to dream over. As the author says in his preface, "the reader will find the quiet dreams at the hearth, the glowing visions in the woods and on the hills, the sweet memories that swarm in the old garret and barn, and the pleasant meditations that flow out of the heart by the brook and the river."

We too, have "sweet memories" of an old home, too, in the country, girdled by green hills and smiling fields, where the sun shone brighter than anywhere else; and we thank the author of "Dovecot" for the pleasant glimpse he has given us, as through a mirror, of the bright days of our own childhood and childhood's home.

MRS. BEN DARRY, OR, THE WEAL AND WOE OF SOCIAL LIFE. By A. Maria Collins. Cincinnati: Moore, Anderson, Willsch, & Keys. Sold by Gray & Ballantyne, Washington. 1 vol. Pp. 367.

This is a work of great power—the best temperance tale we have ever read. The pictures of social life are skillfully drawn, and with a truth and vividness that stir the soul. Who can read "Mrs. Ben Darry," and ever again put the maddening wine-cup to his lips?

There is, as the author has intimated, another slavery beside that of the negro race—a slavery that is felt in high places, and carries in its train madness and ruin. The slavery of the negro is the slavery of the body—the slavery of the inebriate is the slavery of body and soul!

The volume is deserving of high commendation, and we hope it may be extensively read.

AN ATTIC PHILOSOPHER IN PARIS; OR, A PEOP in the World from a Garret. Being the Journal of a Happy Man. From the French of Baileu Souverain. So many unhappy people have written journals, and they are usually filled with such morbid, egotistical, unhealthy stuff, that few people of good taste will read them. But this book is what it purports to be; and there is a religious sentiment pervading it, which is by no means common in popular books, and especially in French literature.

Farnham has it for sale.

LILLY LOCKWOOD. A NOVEL. By Catharine Crowe, author of "Susan Repley," "Lilly Dawson," "Night Side of Nature," &c. New York: Appleton & Co.

We cannot speak critically of this book, for we have not read it. But, turning over its pages, we have seen enough to venture the assertion that it is a clever, spirited sketch of English life and manners, and will serve as well as another to amuse an idle hour.

For sale by Farnham.

GRAHAM, who produced some sensation by pronouncing *Uncle Tom's Cabin* a "bad book" in his Magazine, and in seeking a defence of his Magazine's institutions, is out against Mr. Douglas's Nebraska bill. He is assured that it will be the "parent of endless mischief." He adds:

"The great mass of the people, North and South, have a reverence for compacts. The heart of the masses is sound. The compromise measures have secured repose, and a general acquiescence was manifested. Now we have the old score torn open, and that rudely. The Missouri Compromise has long been regarded as of equal sanctity to the Constitution itself. Once begin to break faith, and we shall soon see an end of all peace on the question of Slavery. New States in the Mexico and Sonora will be knocking at the door hereafter, and if formed by the workers of California, will be States undivided. Then comes the other side of the question, and the South will be in arms. Let well enough alone, Mr. Douglas. Your wisdom is not greater than that of Clay and Webster—not are your antecedents such as to inspire confidence. As a candidate for the Presidency, you are suspected by some as an angler for votes; and by many as a demagogue who would inflame the whole country, that you might ride into office upon the whirlwind of popular passion. As a friend of the South, we urge the people—not the politicians—to 'let well enough alone.' This is a wise maxim—Douglas has not a better in all his quiver of vexations."

NUMERICAL LAWS OF THE SEXES.—The last census develops some curious facts. It fixes the numerical law of the sexes thus:

1. There are more males than females born, by about 4 per cent.
2. At 20 years of age, this preponderance is entirely lost, and there are more females than males.
3. At 40 years, the balance is again the other way, and there are more males than females.
4. At 70, the sexes are about even, and the ultimate age of the human being is reached, without any decided advantage to either sex.

Between 70 and 100 years of age, there are 15,311 more white women than there are males; being more than 5 per cent. of the whole number. Beyond the age of 40 years, the probabilities of longevity are much greater for American women than for men. This contrast singularly with the fact, that the physique (relatively) of American women is inferior to that of American men. That fact, as is shown, however, tells tremendously on women between the ages of 20 and 40, when their mortality is very great.

The longevity of some women is very extraordinary. There are four hundred and thirty American women above one hundred years of age.

Several Russian officers visited the Portsmouth (Va.) navy yard and the U. S. ship Pennsylvania, on Wednesday last, and were received with the usual honors and salute. The object of their visit to this country is to examine our ships, and to purchase vessels for their navy.

SLAVERY AGITATION.

It is fast becoming too too obvious, that there exists in this country neither patriotism enough, sense enough, nor honesty enough, on any side, to permit this pernicious question, inoperative as it is of anything but mischief, to stay settled, even when it has been settled. The faith given between section and section, at any such adjustment, holds no longer than the immediate alarm, the (we fear) selfish dread of commotion which, only when an catastrophe is in no other manner to be avoided, and the least card of political tricksters and demagogues is played, rallies to the call of public duty, never regarded until the last extremity. That extremity once averted, and the momentary panic past, the old game is instantly renewed; the shallow multitude resumes its security, and dances upon the volcano just quiescent beneath its foot; while the very engines, which laid the mine and lighted the combustibles, shift their parts, pass themselves for the men that prevented an explosion, and converting the whole short-lived diemay into a new fund of lying influence for themselves, begin afresh the same insidious practices; carry them on with success; build up their own personal fortunes upon the agitation; and bidding high and fast for public favor, against a crowd of eager competitors, soon bring back all the excitement, the passions, the public phreny, which had but the other day been so nearly fatal.

We live, in short, like those people lately blown up at Ravenswood, in a powder-house, where it is everybody's business to make cartridges; where powder strews the floors, and men shod with iron walk upon it; where it is handled alongside of spirit-lamps; and where, full in the midst, stands that ten-plate stove, the Presidency, all the while flaming, and at every four years blown to a red heat, upon whose top any one that likes may amuse himself with setting off explosions, at his will, to attract attention. All this is no doubt, excellent pyrotechny, and most prudent, as well as pleasant. Now and then a dangerous explosion comes too frequent, or some more riotous youth insists upon clapping fire to everything, for the general benefit of a grand blow up, the inmates, one and all, get enormously frightened, and some sober and good old fellow, with much ado, and at no little hazard of getting scorched himself, sweeps out the powder from the floor, cools down the stove, snatches his match from the pyrotechnic hero, and averts, for the time, the detonation. But what then? They all go on again at the same hazardous trade, the same wicked tricks; the lamp, the stove, blaze up again; the floors, the seats, resume their former discreet condition; the youths that have a fancy for fireworks return to their sports; when lo! in the midst of the fun, a vapour flame darts from the ten-plate, or the lamp, to some pinch of powder, night-drawn from the floor, and the fire is kindled, and the whole combustible mass, with a burst like thunder, a jar like that of an earthquake, the factory and its ingenious artificers are blown into atoms and shot to the sky!

New Orleans Crescent, February 8.

OYSTER LIFE.—An imaginative naturalist has pictured the life of an oyster as one of the happiest of destinies. He has described him as carefully lodged in a dwelling of pearl, fed with the rich produce of the swelling tides, growing delicately corpulent with luxuries which he receives by the mere trouble of opening his mouth, soothed to slumber by the gentle ripple of the waves that roll above and around him, and cheered amid the intervals of his almost continuous dreams by the consideration that his death even is to be glorious as that of the white bull sacrificed to Jove, or the tender virgin who saved his country by her sacrifice down the throat of the Minotaur. Faint ideas of discomfort are suggested by such traditions as those of the "Oyster crossed in love;" but on the whole, the lot of the oyster is a glorious one. He swims in a sensuous paradise until the crash of the oyster-knife comes thundering in to put an end to his life; and then lies white, succulent, and resigned, ready to be offered up an unresisting sacrifice to the gastronomic sensibilities of some refined palate.

AN ANCIENT RECORD.—At a recent meeting of the Syro-Egyptian Society, Mr. Sharpe exhibited a drawing of a sculptured slab from Khursabad, published by M. Botta and Mr. Bonini. It represents a fleet of Phœnician timber ships carrying planks of wood from a city on the coast. The timber is brought down to the coast from a hill. The Assyrian winged bull accompanies the ships, and the fish-god of the Phœnicians is on one side. Mr. Sharpe's conjecture was that this was a fleet of Phœnician ships in the service of Sennacherib, carrying the timber of Mount Lebanon, from the city of Tyre, to be used by the Assyrian army at the siege of Pelusium, where Sennacherib's army was destroyed. The Second Book of Kings does not mention the siege of Pelusium as the spot where that celebrated event took place; that information is added by Herodotus. Again, neither the Book of Kings nor Herodotus allude to this fleet of Phœnician ships, but Sennacherib has at that time a fleet of Phœnician vessels in the Mediterranean Sea, and this sculpture seems to be the representation of that fleet.

SENATOR CHASE'S REPLY TO SENATOR DOUGLAS.—The speech of Hon. S. P. Chase, which we commenced this week, has been completed in our next paper. By universal consent, the Ohio Senator "crushes" the "little giant" to powder; showing up his perversions of fact and distortions of history. We have concluded to issue 10,000 copies of Senator Chase's reply on a half sheet extra, for general circulation. A copy should be in the hands of every man in the State; and it should be carefully read by every man who desires to understand the most momentous question ever yet presented to the people of New Hampshire and of the whole country—a question the wrong decision of which must make the very name of our Republic a hissing and a scorn on the lips of the world.—*Concord Independent Democrat.*

THE COST OF WAR.—The war expenses between England and France were, in the year 1812, £103,421,538; in 1813, £120,952,657; in 1814, £116,843,888; in 1815, £116,481,051. The expenditure from 1803 to 1815, inclusive, was £1,159,729,226 sterling.

A NEGRO PLOT IN Henry county, Kentucky, which was recently communicated to the public by the Louisville Courier, with such startling details, proves to be a sheer humbug. The slaves in a single family having plotted simply to prevent one of their number from being sold, were detected, and the nature of the plot was being understood, they were flogged to make them confess. The result was, they confessed a great quantity of lies, and frightened a whole community half out of their wits.

The Southern papers are praising Mr. Everett's speech on the Nebraska bill. They speak of it as remarkably good for a Senator "from the hotbed of fanaticism."

LOCAL.

THE LOST PRINCE.—In the *Courier des Etats Unis*, of this morning, we observe a letter from Mr. G. O. De Lorimer, dated Saint St. Louis, February 8, 1854, which says that the reported mother of Rev. Eleazer Williams adheres to her declaration that he is her son, and thinks that he must be demoted to deny his parentage. Mr. Lorimer says that there are more than thirty aged persons in the village who knew Eleazer in his infancy, and can make affidavits of the fact.—*N. Y. Com. Advertiser.*

Mr. Williams preached at the Church of the Ascension in this city yesterday; and they who saw him all concur in the opinion that, if he be not a prince, it is impossible that an Indian woman could be his mother.

THE HUTCHINSONS.—There was a delighted audience at Caruso's on Saturday night. The songs were all finely sung. The brothers Hutchinson will sing this and to-morrow evening. No entertainment can be better enjoyed than that they afford. We notice by the Philadelphia papers, that their recent efforts in that city were attended with triumphant success. The *Pennsylvania* of Wednesday last said: "Their success during their brief stay has been most gratifying—the large hall being crowded, both on last evening and the evening before, with fashionable audiences. Much gratification was expressed, and everybody appeared delighted."

A BEAUTIFUL CHOIR.—The impressive religious services at the Capitol, yesterday, by Rev. Mr. Milburn, were enhanced by the aid of the Messrs. Hutchinson, who sang several hymns in the most exquisite manner. This was a delightful and unexpected gratification to many of the congregation.

A more variable winter than the present has never been experienced in Washington. Yesterday the sun shone clear, and